DPI PROGRAMME Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

28 March to 7 April
Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Berlin

7 April
World Health Day

17 April to 12 May
1995 Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Headquarters

21 April
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

22 April
World Water Day

23 April
World Meteorological Day

31March 1995

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

"The task before us today is nothing more nor less than to rethink the notion of collective social responsibility ... We must try to talk not only to Governments but also to grassroots organizations and to what we call the civil society."

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

After a year of arduous preparatory talks and a whirlwind week of final negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark, 117 world leaders have approved a plan to confront the world's gravest social problems, particularly poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.

Approval of a Declaration and Programme of Action came at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, where delegations representing 182 UN Member States affirmed their determination "to recognize the significance of social development and human well-being for all, and to give these goals the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century".

The Copenhagen meeting from 6 to 12 March — the centrepiece in a constellation of high-level United Nations conferences on development — eclipsed the 1992 Earth Summit as the largest gathering of world leaders in history. The focus of its accomplishments were recommendations to eliminate inequalities within and among countries at the international, national, and local levels. These included:

- A call on the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other multilateral lending institutions to make social development a primary focus of their policies, especially in their structural adjustment programmes.
- Endorsement of a UN-endorsed formula under which donor countries would earmark 20 percent of their foreign assistance funds for social development goals, such as food, health, clean drinking water and education, while developing countries would devote 20 percent of their national budgets to the same ends.
- Calls for debt relief — including outright debt cancellation — to help financially ailing developing countries begin to address social problems.

Secretary-General meeting with the press

- Pledges to set early timetables for elimination of absolute poverty.

The President of the Summit, Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen of Denmark, warned the weary delegates that the hard part was only just beginning.

"What lies ahead of us is a task even more important than the one we have successfully completed", he said in the closing minutes of the Summit. "For documents, well crafted as they may be, and commitments, forceful as they may be, must stand the test of time. It is our duty to ensure that this is done".

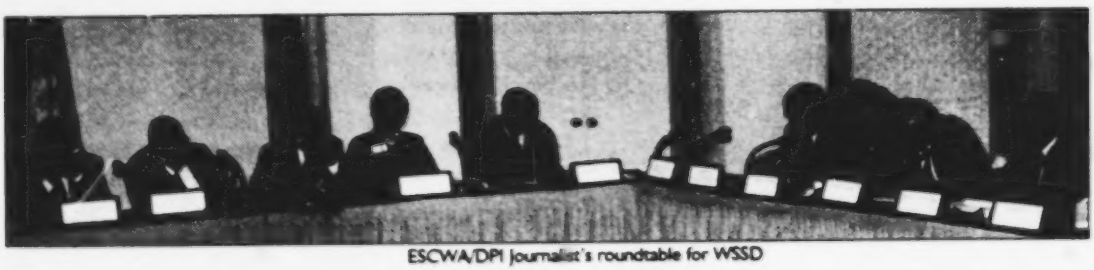
SOCIAL SUMMIT

ARAB REGIONAL JOURNALISTS ROUND TABLE FOCUSES ON SOCIAL SUMMIT

Efforts to promote social development and the media's role in presenting social issues and finding solutions were focused on at the regional journalists roundtable convened by ESCWA and DPI in Amman, on 15-16 February. Fourteen editors and journalists representing leading print media in the Arab world, including *Al Ahram and Al Ahram International, Al Dustour, Al Hayat, Al Nahar, Al Rai, Al Safir, Al Sharq Al Awsat, Al Watan Al Arabi, Sawt Al Shaib* and the *Yemen Times* meet for the two-day seminar. They considered the aims of the World Summit for Social Development, the results of the three Preparatory Committee meetings in drafting a Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Arab regional programme of action for social development.

SOCIAL SUMMIT PREPARATIONS INVOLVE INFORMATION CENTRES

A one-day briefing for European based journalists on the issue of the Social Summit was held in London 11-12 January 1995. Chaired by ASG Samir Sanbar, the sessions included remarks by Ismat Kittani, USG and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, and by Nitin Desai, USG for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The even attracted over 60 participants reports UNIC London. In many countries, UNICs have planned programmes in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or other government offices. In many regions, activities such as teaching about the United Nations and Model United Nations sessions have highlighted the Summit. UNICs have also collaborated with United Nations Associations to promote the Summit.



ESCWA/DPI journalist's roundtable for WSSD

The roundtable was opened by Hazem El-Beblawi, who assumed the position of Executive Secretary of ESCWA on 1 February. Other speakers included Osman Hashem, UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan, and Marian Awwad, who represented the Department of Public Information. The programme included an open discussion by the participants on the issues of the Summit and how to approach them within the Arab regional context. An in-depth discussion focussed on the role of the media in affecting public opinion and helping to shape policy-making. A question and answer session involving news correspondents and government officials also attending the roundtable followed the meeting drew increased media coverage for the Summit throughout the region highlighting its aims to eliminate poverty, increase employment and promote social integration.

The public service announcement (PSA) produced by DPI was frequently aired on local and national television around the world. The taped video message of the Secretary-General was also widely aired. Hundreds of clippings have been sent by all UNICs, from all regions. Special issues and sections of Centre newsletters and bulletins have highlighted preparations and focused on the issues of the Summit.

Local Projects

Resources from the Summit budget were allocated to a number of projects. Local and national journalists roundtables have been funded in Beirut and Buenos Aires. Seminars, symposia, panel discussions and press conferences have been sponsored in *Addis Ababa, Ankara, Brussels, Bucharest, Buenos Aires, Colombo, Dar es Salaam, Jakarta, Lagos, Lima, Madrid, Manila, Panama, Paris, Rabat* and *Tripoli*.

SOCIAL SUMMIT

A series of town meetings were planned by UNIC Harare. **UNIC Lagos** organized a Cartoonists Workshop for 20 national cartoonists. Three press briefings were organized by **UNIC Rabat**, outside the capital city. A regional roundtable for editors was held in **Santiago** on 24-25 November 1994. High-level government and academic events have been sponsored or co-sponsored by UNICs in **Lima** and **Washington,** among others.

Summit funds were used for translations and local production of Summit information materials or documents into *Afrikaans, Amharic, Arabic, Azeri, Danish, Ewe, Finnish, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Kabye, Kiswahili, Kituba, Lingala, Ndebele, Nepali, Norwegian, Oromo, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Shona, Swedish, Thai, Tigrigna* and *Turkish*.

A TV documentary was produced and aired in **Port of Spain** and other Caribbean locations. Video clips were prepared and broadcast in **Beirut**. A 12-minute radio programme was produced in Lingala by **UNIC Brazzaville**. Radio jingles were prepared in English and Pidgin in Lagos. Radio spots were produced in La Paz. Both **UNIC Rabat** and **UNIC Tunis** produced a series of radio programmes featuring UN system representatives and social development experts. Language adaptations of DPI films were prepared for broadcast in the Thai language by **UNIS Bangkok**. **UNIC Windhoek** co-produced a series of one-minute TV spots promoting the inter-linked issues of population, social development and women. Last year, it also co-produced a one-hour documentary on the interlinked issues of the ICPD, the Summit and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Special follow-up events are still planned by a number of Centres after the Summit.

Summit Documents to Note

Fact sheet series on the World Summit for Social Development: An information packet on the Summit (E,F,S,) contains papers addressing the core issues from the perspective of the United Nations' specialized agencies and programmes as well as some of the smaller UN entities.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational materials (A/CONF.166/4, 7 February 1995): Contains names and addresses of Non-Governmental Organizations added to the list of NGO's accredited to the Summit as of 7 February 1995.

The World Economy at the start of 1995 (E/1995/INF/1, 17 January 1995): Contains an overview and assessment of the world economic situation, using data as of 5 December 1994, as well as more specific information on developing economies.

Measuring and monitoring economic and social development (E/CN.3/1995/20, 2 February 1995): Contains a report by the Central Statistical Office of the United Kingdom on the implications of statistics for the World Summit.

Integration of older women in development: General Assembly resolution 49/162 of 9 February 1995 calls attention to the need to identify and evaluate the different forms of activities of older women that are not normally recognized as having economic value, considerating that there were 208 million women over the age of 60 in 1985 and that by the year 2025 this number is projected to increase to 604 million elderly women through the world.

Role of cooperatives in light of new economic and social trends: General Assembly resolution 49/155 of 7 February 1995 invites the World Summit of Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, Development and Peace and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements to formulate respective strategies and actions and give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives.

Draft outcome of the World Summit for Social Development: Proposals from the World Food Programme **(A/CONF. 166/PC/20/Add.16, 16 January 1995)**

Notes for Speakers on Social Development: A DPI publication to assist speakers, educators and journalists in preparing effective and thought-provoking presentations. It contains articles on social development and the United Nations, poverty, employment, social integration, and NGOs.

A MESSAGE TO THE FIELD FROM NDS

Most of the Information Centres and Services are now familiar with NDS *(News Distribution Section, Media Division, DPI)*, which daily handles press clippings and media reports received from the field. The Secretary-General attaches great importance to what the world press has to say about the UN, its work and the issues with which it is concerned. Any editorial, news commentary or article of interest to the UN that you send to us is brought to the attention of and read by the Secretary-General, as well as other officials in the substantive UN departments and offices.

To give you a better understanding of what you should send, how often and what method of communication to use, it might be helpful for you to know what is done with your clippings.

Every morning, NDS selects clippings of interest to the UN that are legible and clearly indicate the name and date of the publication. Selected items are reproduced, pasted onto clean titled and dated sheets, and then copied in the appropriate size. Together with the original clippings selected by NDS that day from the available dailies at Headquarters, the clippings are grouped according to priority and subject, and then produced as a compilation under NDS's regular cover sheet. Since clippings are continually received throughout the day, four compilations are issued every day: three English/French and one Arabic.

To facilitate NDS's daily operation:

- Send legible, "clean" copies. A few UNICs are marking the text to be clipped with a bold pencil before transmission. Use red ink for marking, and place the marking in the margins rather than on the text itself.
- Instead of faxing extended pages, make a logical partition of the lengthy story on separate fax-size sheets.
- Always indicate the date and name of the publication.
- In choosing a story, avoid selecting news stories carried by international wire services, since major wire services are monitored by NDS.
- Include locally originated articles, editorials and commentaries on the UN; the Secretary-General; activities and structure; and on the issues — political, social and economic — which in your judgement are of interest to the UN and the international community.

If the quality of fax transmission is poor, send important clippings by pouch even if they have been transmitted by fax. Those materials can be included in the Weekly Dossier, which normally contains materials from magazines and other periodicals, as well as important clippings from dailies received by pouch. Materials received and not used in the daily compilations or the weekly, monthly and special dossiers (on selected subjects) are forwarded to relevant offices, particularly divisions of the Department of Political Affairs.

Suggestions

- When summarizing an article from a local-language publication, indicate whether it is an editorial, a regular column or a credited news report. If the newspaper is not known internationally, include some information about the paper and its circulation in the country, i.e., regional, national, etc. If the name of the writer has any local significance, it would be useful to mention that too.
- Always remember: the report you send must be about the UN and the issues with which it is concerned as reported in the local press. Do not be concerned, if on some days or even weeks you do not have anything to send.
- The reports should be concise and should briefly outline the major points of the article. They should be single-spaced and transmitted by E-mail or fax so that they may be included in the daily compilations; each contains a maximum of 50 pages.

NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

A historic meeting of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is being held at Headquarters from 17 April to 12 May to decide upon the terms of the Treaty's renewal.

The Review and Extension Conference is being convened primarily in accordance with Article X of the Treaty, which calls for a decision to be made by a majority of the States parties, 25 years after the Treaty's entry into force, on whether the Treaty should continue in force indefinitely, or be extended for an additional fixed period or periods. The NPT entered into force on 5 March 1970 and now has 172 States parties. The issue of extension has been highly polarized during discussions in the four preparatory committee meetings held over the past year. On one side of the debate are those calling for the Treaty's indefinite and unconditional extension, and on the other are those who prefer to have a series of renewable fixed periods linked to progress in nuclear disarmament.

A press kit in English and French on the NPT Conference containing a copy of the Treaty, a list of States parties, activities of the IAEA and the non-proliferation process as well as details on the Conference itself, will be available in early April.

In addition, the new volume in the Blue Book series, *"The United Nations and Nuclear Non-proliferation"* was sent to UNICs recently. It contains an in-depth look at the NPT.

New peace-keeping and disarmament materials:

Peace-keeping Operations: A poster/ wall chart (A,E,F,S) listing all UN peace-keeping operations from 1948 to the present. (DPI/1533)

UN Peace-keeping Information Notes: Describes all current UN Peace-keeping Missions. (DPI/1306/Rev.4)

Reference Papers: On the current situation in the former Yugoslavia (DPI/1312/Rev.2/Add.1), Somalia (DPI/1321/Rev.4), Angola (DPI/1552/Rev.1), and Rwanda (DPI/1484/Rev.1).

Disarmament: A disarmament pamphlet (E,F) issued at the request of and in collaboration with the Center for Disarmament Affairs on confidence-building measures and arms limitation in the Central African subregion.

ATTENTION FOR AFRICA

In a recent briefing on Africa, Salim Lone, Editor of DPI's **Africa Recovery** magazine, said the UN considered Africa's development a very special priority, as donor countries were occupied by developments in the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe. Recent political crises in Africa had overshadowed the enormous efforts and personal sacrifice that Africans had made to revive their economies, he said. The media's focus on Africa naturally centered on such political crises, with the result that most outsiders saw Africa only as a place of turmoil with little hope for improvement. The internal conflicts were also lowering external support for economic development efforts planned by Africa.

Furthermore, the intra-faction conflicts and the continent's unpredictable climate were interfering with Africa's ability to produce food to sustain itself. Noting that Africa imported an estimated 25 per cent of its food needs, he said that with the GATT agreement, which could result in cuts in subsidies and an eventual increase in the cost of food commodities in the world, Africa might be facing a "time bomb".

Citing a World Bank study, he pointed out that even if the African economy grew at a rate of 0.6 per cent per year, it would take Africa 40 years to return to the per capita income level of 1975. And even that rate of growth would be hard to achieve since the average per capita for the last 15 years was much lower. The external debt of Africa was now over $300 billion. The continent paid $25 billion a year to its creditors, whereas it spent $7 billion on all its health services. In 1981 Africa's terms of trade had fallen from an index of 110 to an index of 52 in 1993, which meant that the continent was earning less than half as much for what it sold on the international market. Added to that, foreign aid to Africa had fallen rapidly, from $20 billion in 1990 to $12 billion in 1993.

On the positive side, Mr. Lone stressed Africa's determination to undertake much-needed economic and political reforms, and its perception that any improvements would result primarily from its own efforts.

In addition, Africa was a potentially rich continent and could easily sustain itself if an organized and coordinated all-out effort was made, he said. He noted that in 1994 Africa saw a per capita growth rate of 0.4 per cent, the best in five years. Moreover, for the first time since the 1960s, there was peace in southern African States. Many African countries had changed their policies radically, turning away from the dominance of the public sector in the economy. In light of the continual decline of primary commodity prices, it was crucial for Africa to move towards more diversified economies with more industrialization and more processing of what they produced, rather than only exporting raw materials.

A special General Assembly session on the problems of Africa had been held as long ago as 1986. Later in 1990, a "United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF)" was adopted by the General Assembly. The UN now had an office dealing exclusively with African development concerns and an eminent group of experts had been established by the Secretary-General. Also, this year the Economic and Social Council would be focusing on the development of Africa, including implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, during its high-level segment of the 1995 session being held from 26 June to 28 July in Geneva.

UNHCR COPES WITH GROWING NUMBER OF REFUGEES

In another briefing, Soren Jessen-Petersen, Director of the UNHCR Liaison Office at Headquarters, said that as a result of a global consultative process between UNHCR and NGOs, the "Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action: A Humanitarian Agenda for the 1990s" was adopted. The Plan specified cooperation between UNHCR and NGOs in five areas: protection, displaced persons, emergency preparedness, the process from relief to development, and the building up of new local NGOs.

In the past year, the number of refugees had gone from 19 million to 23 million. During that time, UNHCR had increased the number of its staff from 4,000 to 5,000, and was now working in more than 220 field offices in over 110 countries, he said. Established in 1951 to act as the "international ambassador on behalf of refugees", the Programme depended on voluntary contributions from States as well as private organizations. In 1994 it managed to raise more than $1 billion.

The High Commissioner was providing life-sustaining assistance to about 4 million people in different parts of former Yugoslavia, where it has been organizing the longest airlift in history, between 15 and 20 flights per day, to provide Sarajevo with the most urgently needed goods. Expressing concern over Croatia's decision not to accept the extension of the mandate of UNPROFOR in its territory, he said the decision could have "disastrous consequences" for refugees.

In Rwanda, some 2 million people had to relocate after "the largest, swiftest exodus in modern history". Most had fled to the neighboring states of Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi. Another 350,000 were displaced within Rwanda. During the last six to eight months, however, UNHCR had assisted in returning 600,000 Rwandans "in conditions of safety and dignity".

During December 1994, UNHCR had also been requested by Russia to assist the displaced persons from the conflict in Chechnya, said Mr. Jessen-Petersen. Although UNHCR's traditional mandate was to assist refugees who crossed international borders, it can be called upon to provide assistance to internally displaced persons at the request of the General Assembly or the Security Council, or as in the case of Chechnya, the Secretary-General. UNHCR had organized an airlift and launched an emergency programme for more than 100,000 displaced persons there.

In another major operation, UNHCR had recently helped 1.5 million people return to Mozambique from Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania, where they had been in exile for five to 10 years. Most returned in time to participate in the general elections last October. Further, UNHCR had agreed with the Government of Mozambique on an 18-month rehabilitation programme, since it was essential to follow humanitarian relief with rehabilitation and development programmes.

Summarizing some of the most recent trends concerning refugees and the UNHCR, Mr. Jessen-Petersen said the programme was increasingly operating in the midst of conflicts. More and more people did not seek refuge abroad but inside their own countries. Most of the recent refugee crises were caused by ethnic conflicts and it had become increasingly important to protect refugees from being forced back. Sudden and massive flight was often followed by the return of a large number of people to their native country, and sometimes refugees returned while armed conflicts were still going on, he said.

SHAPING AN ALTERNATIVE VISION OF DEVELOPMENT

As women's NGOs and staff gathered to observe International Women's Day at an extended NGO briefing in the Dag Hammarskjold Library, Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the upcoming Beijing Conference on Women, said the Conference provided an opportunity to accelerate equality between men and women and to ensure their equal participation in all spheres of public and private life.

Mrs. Gertrude Mongella addressing NGOs

Lucille Mair, Jamaica's Permanent Representative to the the UN and the Secretary-General of the 1980 UN Conference on Women held in Mexico City, provided an historical perspective on the progress achieved so far. In addressing the call for promoting new models and strategies, she said that because of the increasing input of women over the years, an alternative vision of development was being shaped. "The issue of equality as it affects the vast majority of women of the world is closely linked with the problem of underdevelopment", she said.

As she looked back over the past two decades on the part played by women themselves in shaping a more participatory development paradigm for women, she said that because of research, which was providing accurate background on the situation of women in development, the process was changing. Noting that the analysis of development and other statistics was done primarily by "male experts" in the 1970s to determine how women could participate in development, Ambassador Mair stressed the impact a "growing feminist scholarship" was having on the global debate on where to direct the world's resources.

"African women analysts were sounding a very timely alarm about developmental processes which were totally bypassing the deteriorating condition of female farmers and which would have great consequences for their national food security", she said. At the same time, Latin American and Caribbean women were looking at industrialization in their region and documenting the structural transformation of the international workforce as transnational corporations were increasingly relocating to the region where labour was abundant, cheap and ... overwhelmingly female.

Following the crisis of survival of the 1980's, women had become increasingly involved in shaping development policies and dynamic non-governmental organizations tightened their networks "to synthesize alternative visions of development", providing dynamic input into the Nairobi inter-governmental forum, Ambassador Mair said. The informal open-ended working group of women researchers, activists and policy-makers had become the centrepiece of much of the discussion that took place during that Conference. "They were determined to produce a theology and methodology for change, one without gender-biases — a development paradigm in which men and women are equally empowered and able to humanize and advertise the process", she said.

VOICES OF YOUTH SPEAK ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Addressing the NGO representatives gathered at Headquarters, two young speakers welcomed the new process of inter-generational dialogue launched by organizers of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Cynthia Eyakuze of Tanzania told the gathering that young women were "not just involved, but very involved" and committed to equality and equity for women.

Ms. Eyakuze, who participated in the youth consultation for the African Regional PrepCom in Dakar last November, noted that even 13-year olds were well aware of the problems faced by people in their country and the larger region, specifically in the area of peace.

African young people, she said, had their own solutions to offer and were eager to put them forward. They were grateful that their elders were now seeking input from the young on these and other troubling questions.

She urged the United Nations, Governments and NGOs to continue the process of including the young in various forums on issues that affect them. "What we ask right now is that you recognize the ways in which we are doing things, and that you include us in the future processes as participants, as equal partners...", she said.

Partnership

Speaking on the value of promoting partnership between men and women to achieve equality, Aaron Knight, a graduate student on Women's Studies and Director of the World Federalist Association, said he was disappointed that this goal, which had been reflected in an earlier draft of the Draft Platform for Action, was no longer included in the latest version.

The Draft platforms earlier version had stated in paragraph 34 that: "The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between men and women is not simply an issue of social justice, it is the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. According to Mr. Knight, one of the strategic objectives of the forthcoming Conference was to take action that would inspire a new generation of men and women to work together for equality.

Young men were allies of women, Mr. Knight said, many having grown up with feminist mothers, fathers and friends, and who themselves had sometimes been deeply influenced by feminist analysis and patriarchy. He stressed that partnership within his generation was indeed possible, adding that the role of men was to learn, listen and then work in partnership to try to achieve equality.

CENTRES CELEBRATE WOMEN'S DAY AND PROMOTE THE BEIJING CONFERENCE

Beijing: The DPI representative in Beijing has informed ICS that two television programmes are being produced in China to publicize the forthcoming Conference: a 90-minute programme titled "Daughters of the East"; and a 45-minute daily programme titled "Half the Sky". Producers of the latter plan to incorporate United Nations system video productions into the daily programme.

Discussion organized by UNIC Dhaka on the Beijing Conference

Dhaka: The Centre organized a meeting of editors and chief reporters of 18 national news agencies, national dailies and weeklies to exchange views and discuss greater coverage of women's issues for the advancement of women in the news media. A total of 33 media representatives were present at the function as well as the national NGO Preparatory Committee for Beijing Conference, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and United Nations agencies. Press materials were distributed.

WOMEN

Lima: Distinguished guests at the panel discussion on the "Women's Role in Peruvian Society at the end of the Twentieth Century" included the Vice Minister of Justice, a congresswoman, a representative of the Peruvian women's movements and a female leader, from the main political female candidates to the Peruvian Congressional elections in April, and specialized media. The discussion took place on 8 March. Later that evening, the Centre held a meeting of representatives of Peruvian women's organizations who will attend the Beijing Conference. The NGOs examined the views they will take to the meeting and launched their official pre-Conference campaign aimed at promoting the main issues before the Conference.

Colombo: UNIC organized a seminar for teachers, provincial administrators and students on the "Relevance of the Social Summit to Sri Lanka", in Kandy, a provincial capital. The event, held during the week of the Copenhagen meeting, was attended by President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. The occasion was also used to draw attention to the issues before the Beijing Conference.

Cairo: UNIC participated in the International Women's Day Press Coalition ceremony held at the African Society, which was attended by prominent Egyptian women professionals from various fields. The Secretary-General's message was read by the Deputy to the Director.

Maseru: "Women, Media and Society Day" was the theme of a briefing organized in accordance with some of the recommendations made at the Fifth Regional Conference on Women held in Dakar, Senegal, last year and in observance of International Women's Day. Over 50 women from various women's NGOs attended the meeting at which representatives of the Lesotho Council of Women outlined key areas of concern, and discussed preparations for the Beijing Conference. They also called for greater recognition of the role of women as nation-builders during 1995. UNIC which supplied the meeting with Conference materials including posters, brochures and copies of the Draft Platform for Action, reports an increase in requests for materials following the briefing.

Manila: The Centre cooperated closely with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women which organized the main event for International Women's Day under the theme: "Beijing for Filipina, Shared Vision, Shared Action".

Teheran: A two-day seminar on the "Girl Child in Islamic Republic of Iran" was held at Teheran's Artistic and Cultural Centre by the Bureau of Women's Affairs in cooperation with UNIC Teheran, UNICEF and UNFPA. Ms. Shahla Habibi, head of the Bureau of Women's Affairs inaugurated the seminar with a message from the President of Iran.

Buenos Aires: Ambassador Zelmita Regazzoli, Head of the Argentine delegation to the Beijing Conference, chaired a national seminar for NGOs organized by UNIC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 7 March. More than 90 journalists covering social development issues, NGOs, government representatives and educational authorities heard from panelists examining the issues before the Conference. An art exhibition on women's issues with paintings by female artists, was opened that same day at the Centre's premises.

Sana'a: A large celebration was hosted at the new premises of UNIC. The event which was coordinated with Yemen's NGO Network for Women, included representatives in charge of women's programmes at the Ministries of Social Affairs, Education, Information, and Agriculture. Representatives of UN agencies gave statements on their activities in relation to women and development. The meeting was attended by academics and reporters from all leading media in the country.

Geneva: An art exhibition accompanied by a "mini-concert" and a film screening of the movie "Making Their Way" was organized. For the art exhibition, arranged in cooperation with The Group on Equal Rights for Women, UNIS prepared a booklet on the paintings and achievements of the artists.

Asmara: More than 40,000 women rallied in the streets of the capital on their way to an exhibition complex where the official celebrations took place. The events included a seminar and panel discussion organized by the UN Office.

NEW MATERIALS

DPI Backgrounders

Many Centres have inquired about translating various DPI Conference backgrounders into local languages. Here are some considerations:

Confeencre Brochure: This may still be useful to translate this text although all the preparatory meetings listed will now be over. Large quantities are available in all languages. When requesting this brochure, please note that (DPI/1583) as it appears on the Spanish version of the brochure is the correct number (DPI/1583).

Draft Platform of Action: Changes to the text of this document are very likely to occur during the PrepCom beginning on 15 March. For example, since the original printing, another point has been added to the original 10, making a total of 11 areas of concern. Centres wishing to translate this document into local languages are urged to wait until after the PrepCom to determine changes.

Fact Sheet # 5: Contains information on the Draft Platform for Action; a brief description of the Commission on the Status of Women; all 11 areas of concern; a UN system audio-visual resource list, a calendar of events for 1995 leading up to the Conference; and a brief time-line history on the status of women and the United Nations (DPI/1657).

Pre-Conference Backgrounder: Discusses the issues before the Conference (DPI/1424 Rev.1). In addition, the following Conference materials are available:

- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women . (DPI/1525 E,F,S)
- Violence Against Women (DPI/1595)
- NGO Forum on Women (DPI/1615)

UN in Action Videos

Ghanaian Women Take Active Role in Grassroots Sustainable Projects (Programme No.377 A,E,F,R,S). Women in Ghana are becoming more involved in sustainable projects which are part of a programme called "Africa 2000 Network". These projects are supported by UNDP and combine income-generating as well as reforestation projects.

Women and Literacy (Programme No.379, A,E,F,R,S). Traditional norms in male dominated societies around the world, especially in developing countries, are responsible for the high illiteracy rate among women. Today things are changing, but ever so slowly. Girls and women still represent two thirds of the world's illiterate. Innovative ways of boosting female literacy will be taken up at the Beijing Conference.

DOCUMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General:

Technical Assistance and Women: from mainstreaming towards institutional accountability (E/CN./ 1995/6). Makes recommendations for strengthening the impact of UN assistance and financing for the advancement of women, including strategies for integrating gender analysis in policy, planning and implementation and for increased accountability for improving the status of women through technical cooperation and financial assistance programmes.

Reports of the Secretary-General:

Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/CN.6/1995/4). Contains information on the status of preparations for the Conference and includes information on activities undertaken by NGOs from August 1994 to December 1994.

Promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills (E/CN.6/ 1995 /11). This report is based on the results of an expert group meeting organized to examine how female education can be a powerful instrument of public action and a catalyst for economic and social change. It presents the progress achieved at all levels of female education and describes the obstacles in access and achievements that still persist at regional and sub-regional levels.

Equality in economic decision-making (E/CN.6/ 1995/10). The report seeks to present the main opportunities and constraints specifically faced by women and to suggest strategic actions to be taken to increase and improve their participation in economic decision-making bodies and processes.

Reports from Regional Conferences and other International Conferences:

African Platform for Action adopted by the Fifth Regional Conference on Women, held in Dakar from 16-23 November 1994 (E/CN.6/ 1995/Add.2). This document represents the synthesis of regional perspectives and priorities and a framework for action for the formulation of policies and implementation of concrete and sustainable programmes for the advancement of women.

Regional Platform for Action - Women in a Changing World Call for Action from and ECE Perspective (E/ECE/RW/HLM/8). The report outlines major trends in the ECE region since the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, critical areas of concern, strategic objectives derived from these concerns and action to be taken.

Excerpts from Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992 (E/CN.6/1995/5/Add.6). The excerpts focus on the advancement of women, gender equality, equality of opportunity for men and women, and the role of women and women's groups. Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration, also adopted at the Conference states: "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific Adopted by the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held at Jakarta from 7-14 June 1994 (E/CN.6/1995/5/Add.1). The Plan of Action lays down a framework which can be used by national governments to design concrete programmes and policies in all spheres of women's involvement to bring the goals envisioned by the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies well within the reach of the countries of the region by the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Excerpts from the Vienna Declaration and Progamme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14-25 June 1993 (E/CN.6/5/Add.7). The document contains passages excerpted from the Declaration, in which women's rights, the girl-child, the role of women and of women's groups and gender equality are mentioned.

Regional Programme of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 (LC/L.868 MDM.20/2 Rev.1) The Programme is intended to complement the instruments already in force by reflecting the changes in the region and their impact on women by setting forth a package of priority activities for Latin America and the Caribbean that can be carried out for the next five years.

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S TOUR

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali tackled a wide range of global issues on his first mission of the 50th anniversary year of the United Nations, focusing in particular on the future of the UN and its efforts in behalf of peace and democratization, as well as the situation in the former Yugoslavia, East Timor and Chechnya during a six-country, 21-day tour.

Travelling from New York to Paris, Geneva, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Bonn, Berlin and Davos, (Switzerland) beginning on January 6, the Secretary-General met with world leaders, senior UN aides and advisers and leading representatives of the media and business sectors. He delivered five major addresses, held six press conferences—including a major press conference at the United Office at Geneva — and met with media opinion-leaders at a round table discussion.

In addition to chairing talks between Portugal and Indonesia on East Timor and hosting a meeting of his top advisers and aides on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General provided a major boost to the Social Summit during meetings and conferences in the Nordic countries and delivered an important address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, on global prospects for the UN **(Press Release SG/SM/5531).**

Among the meetings held in Geneva, was a discussion with the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation on the situation in Croatia and possible avenues to be pursued following the letter from President Tudjman regarding withdrawal of UNPROFOR from Croatia. They also discussed Chechnya **(Press Release SG/T/1932).**

On 23 January, he held a two-hour meeting with 14 Information Centre staff members from Europe and Africa, discussing among other things, the importance he attaches to the work performed in the field by the Centres.

SECRETARY-GENERAL MEETING WITH UNIC STAFF

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali addressed some of the challenges faced by Centres in their tasks and proposed possible strategies for dealing with them at a meeting of UNIC Directors in Geneva on 23 January. Citing public misperception of the UN as one of the Organization's weakest points, he urged the Centres to take advantage of opportunities to publicize the numerous success stories of the UN over the past 50 years and to convey the reality that the UN was engaged in far more than just peacekeeping. He also asked Directors to respond as quickly as possible to critical or erroneous information about the UN in the media.

Meeting with Centre Directors and Staff in Geneva

At the two-hour meeting, attended by Directors or Information Officers from 14 different Centres in Europe and Africa, the Secretary-General encouraged UNICs to share their experiences with one another, and pointed out that such an exchange would not only prevent duplication of effort but could also lead to a multiplication of activities as UNICs inspired one another to undertake new initiatives. In particular, he suggested that UNICs share positive articles about the UN appearing in the media. Another suggestion was to coordinate 50th Anniversary events. In the context of good relations being established between Centres and Resident Coordinators, he stressed the need for Centres to be informed of visits by senior officials and other important developments.

In response to a question during an informal discussion period on satellite interviews, the Secretary-General said that although the request had never been made before, he would consider such requests favorably and he would encourage other senior officials at Headquarters to do the same. He also advised Directors to request visiting officials to do interviews. A five minute interview could be a vehicle for further dissemination of various kinds of information, he said.

Secretary-General with UNIC Staff

It was very important for UNIC Directors to act to counter negative or erroneous comment on the UN, the Secretary-General said. Expressing his opinion that not enough letters were being written by UNICs to newspapers and others in response to criticism of the United Nations, he recommended that, depending on the circumstances, UNICs either respond immediately by writing to the editor of the publication concerned or refer the matter to Headquarters along with a proposed letter indicating that if a response was not received within 48 hours the UNIC Director would seek to have the letter published. Concerning the electronic media, the Secretary-General encouraged Directors with experience in that area to go on the air to rebut criticism. Other Directors could provide journalists with background information and persuade them to go on the air. Also, "action" photos or photos from missions of the Secretary-General or photos of the Secretary-General with a Foreign Minister or Head of State taken during the General Assembly should be provided to the media.

He emphasized that rapid dissemination of information was essential and urged the Directors to transmit newsworthy information on the UN to the media and other redisseminators without delay. As an example of how Directors could either generate interest in UN information or facilitate coverage in the media, he said that passages or ideas from his speeches and the annual reports could be summarized and translated if necessary and then brought to the attention of media in a packaged form. Other materials, which although they might not be particularly compelling for the daily press, could hold great interest for foreign affairs specialists and international reviews. The Blue Book series and his recent speech on democratization given in Davos, Switzerland, were good examples of material that could be targeted to those who took a longer-term approach to international affairs.

Information efforts should also concentrate more on the younger generation as their parents would be reached at the same time, the Secretary-General said. He suggested that UNICs collaborate with local non-governmental organizations which would have relevant information and might be willing to do printing of UN materials in local languages. He also suggested that Directors contact foundations and large corporations to obtain funds for activities, with the proviso that the United Nations name and logo not be used in connection with commercial activities.

UNIC Directors should not limit their activities to cities in which they were based but should talk regularly to journalists and key partners in other areas and countries covered by the Information Centre.

UN50 SECRETARIAT

Bringing knowledge about the UN to young people a significant yet frequently overlooked part of the UN's constituency — is considered one of the important objectives of UN50 celebrations. As you may already know, there has been a call for schools worldwide to dedicate a week or even a month to the study of the UN and and the issues on its global agenda, particularly during October. In connection with this "Global Teach-In", educational kits on the UN intended to supplement existing school curricula have been prepared by the UNA/UK. Samples of the kits, which are being prepared in the six UN languages, will be mailed to Centres in April. Support for translation into other languages will be considered by the UN50 secretariat.

The kit contains teaching material for three levels — primary, intermediate and higher — and uses the work of the UN as a context for teaching a variety of subjects. For instance, a factsheet at the higher level on "Who pays for the UN" uses the UN budget as a context for teaching mathematics. The kit, which has a foreword by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, notes that the materials are based on the assumption that education matters and can make a difference to the quality of life of individuals, and that the UN is a force for good and has the potential to become increasingly so in the years to come.

Following up the special effort to engage young children in UN-related 50th Anniversary events, very high priority is being given by the UN50 secretariat to the "Passport to the Future" project. On the passport-sized certificate, which will be obtainable by mail or telephone, children pledge to improve the global community, beginning with their own local communities. The project, which will be widely publicized in all youth-oriented Anniversary activities, is expected to continue past 1995 with the support of UNAs and other NGOs. Details of the project, now being finalized, will be available in mid-April.

For further information on the Educational Kit, the Passport for the Future, and the medal, contact the UN50 Secretariat by Fax: 212 963-1185.

A silver presentation medal is available from the UN50 secretariat as a grand award for youth competitions related to learning about the goals and work of the United Nations. One side is blank to permit engraving of a name. A United Nations representative must decide upon or concur in the decision on the winners.

The UN50 Secretariat has also endorsed an international competition for students and teachers, organized by Paz y Cooperacion based in Madrid, on the theme of the UN50 commemoration in the context of the International Year of Tolerance. The competition has four categories: drawing, poster, poetry and video. Entries should be postmarked no later than 1 July 1995.

Also in connection with the 50th Anniversary, Programme #373 of DPI **"UN IN ACTION"** series contains an interview with Gillian Martin Sorensen, USG for Public Policy (16 January 1995, duration 3'04", E,A,S,F,R).

OBSERVING UN50 IN THE FIELD

A "UN Road Show" will be travelling to all the major towns in Kenya beginning in July, **UNIC Nairobi** reports. In keeping with the effective African tradition of using travelling performance groups to convey information, the show will contain both entertainment and and facts about the role of the UN and its programmes and activities.

Also taking to the road, or in this case, the rails, is a travelling train exhibit in Sri Lanka designed to illustrate various facets of UN activity, informs **UNIC Colombo**. Organized by the UN50 National Committee of Sri Lanka, the train will comprise three carriages, featuring the UN and the World, the UN in Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka in the UN. It is expected to travel throughout the railway network of the country in the latter part of 1995, stopping at 50 points for public viewing. Arrangements are being made with provincial and educational authorities to ensure that children in and around those areas have an opportunity to visit the exhibit.

To give first hand experience of the UN, the UNA of Tamilnadu is organizing a tour for children during summer vacation to show UN agencies at work in the areas of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

Again with children foremost in mind, a "Sports and the United Nations" event is being organized in Madeira, Portugal, in May. The gymnastics event, which will involve 800 children from six schools, will centre on such themes as "The UN — Sports and Peace" and "UN 50 years — Sports embrace the World", **UNIC Lisbon** reports.

An Arabic version of the DPI publication *"What's the United Nations"* has been produced. Translated by the **UNIC Manama** and produced locally in cooperation with a leading educational NGO, United Schools International, the publication is designed for use by schools in Bahrain and the Gulf region in connection with UN week and the Global Teach-In next October.

As part of promotional activity for the 50th Anniversary, the UN system in Bangladesh has produced an appointment diary for free distribution among the media, Ministers, policy makers, ngos, senior government officials and educators. The diary, which bears the 50th Anniversary logo, contains the Secretary-General's message, an updated list of Member States, a list of important UN days and weeks and the Conferences to be held during the year. A brief note on each of the UN field offices in Bangladesh is also included, according to **UNIC Dhaka.**

In one of the regional projects for the Caribbean, a full colour commemorative booklet documenting the area's association with the UN over the past 50 years is expected to be published in June or July. **UNIC Port of Spain** says that in addition to information on the establishment, role and functions of the various UN agencies in the region, the booklet will feature the contributions of Caribbean nationals to the work of the UN.

UNIC Beirut reports a proposal to name the Murr Tower area, which is expected to house the UN system in Lebanon, the *"UN Plaza/Place des Nations Unies"*. Another proposal has been made to name a room in each university in Lebanon after Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali.

A series of public seminars and symposia on the challenges facing the United Nations in the next half-century is being held at the Georgetown University of Foreign Service on 21 and 28 March, **UNIC Washington** reports. The event will include the Georgetown academic community, UN officials, the media, the NGO community and members of Congress and their staff. The programme will cover key issues of collective security, human rights, sustainable development, UN management and peace building. A book on the results of the symposia will be presented to the Secretary-General on UN Day in October.

A "Know Your UN" high school quiz is scheduled to take place in Zimbabwe, **UNIC Harare** reports. In addition, the UN has been given a stand to feature its publications at the popular Zimbabwe International Book Fair being held from 28 July to 5 August.

NEW SPECIAL DAYS AND YEARS

In resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its 49th session the following new Days (observance of which begins in 1995) and Years have been proclaimed:

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought June, 17

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozon Layer,16 September

International Day for Biological Diversity, 29 December (the date of entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity)

United Nations Year for Tolerance 1995

Tenth Anniversary of International Youth Year 1995

International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 1996

International Year of the Ocean 1998

UN50 CALENDAR

Many activities to mark the 50th Anniversary have been planned by Information Centres, UNA's, and National Committees all over the world. The following is a and partial preliminary listing of events for which dates have been set:

26 April	Sydney	Global Cultural Diversity Conference, hosted by the Prime Minister of Australia, in the presence of the Secretary-General
1 May	Bangkok	Seminar on 'Significance of UN50 in the regional context'. Participation of Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Singapore and former Prime Minister of Thailand.
May	Athens	International Conference in Thessaloniki
May	Moscow	International Forum on "Ecopolitics and PKOs in the Eurasian Space"
6 June - 5 July	Geneva	'Geneva and Young People', Secretary-General's address to young people.
26 June	London	National event in presence of HM the Queen, members of both Houses of Parliament and diplomatic community.
3 July	Geneva	Lecture by Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the Institute Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationals (IUHEI).
5 July	Geneva	Musicians for World Peace concert.
August	Bogota	Seminar on restructuring the UN.
31 August	Washington	National Assembly on "US and the UN".
August	Cairo	Regional Seminar on UN50 in cooperation with Centre for Strategic Studies, Al Ahram
24 October	Athens	Ceremonial event at the Music Palace in Athens.
24 October	Bujumbura	Inauguration of UN Public Plaza, symbol of cooperation between the UN and Burundi.
24 October	Dakar	Ceremony under auspices of President Abdou Diouf. Installation of Human Rights statue on the Island of Gorée.
24 October	Islamabad	Government ceremony. Head of State to deliver Presidential address on foreign policy.
October	Lagos	50th Anniversary Talent Hunt staged in all 30 states of Nigeria.
24 October	London	Festival at Royal Albert Hall.
24 October	Manama	Event organized by all UN offices represented in Bahrain and the office of the Prime Minister of Bahrain.24 October
	Windhoek	Inauguration of United Nations Plaza.

DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE

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